November 25, 1963 4:04 pr

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TELEPHONE CALL
THE PRESIDENT TO LARRY O'BRIEN

LO Yes, Mr. President.

LBJ Needless to tell you, I'm most anxious for you to continue just like you have been, because I need you a lot more than he did.

LO Mr. President. Ken is here with me. Do you have an immediate problem?

LBJ No. I just wanted you to know how strongly I felt about you and Ken and all the rest of the staff and I had talked to some of them individually, but I hadn't had a chance to run into you, and I think you know the confidence I have in you and admiration I have for you.

LO I know that, Mr. President.

LBJ I don't expect you to love me as much as you did him, but I expect you will after we've been around a while.

LO Right, Mr. President.

LBJ I just wanted to tell you I felt it. I wanted to congratulate you, too, on that (sounds like month or Mundt) votsup there. I think it would be terrible to Kennedy's memory to have this wheat sale thing repudiated, and I hope that they got the votes in the Senate and they don't take it up until they do have them . Do you know anything about it?

LO No, I'll check that though.

LBJ The committee voted against it, eight to...

LO I know it.

LBJ Apparently the leadership agreed to bring it back and let the Senate vote on it.

LO There was an agreement that it would be reported out on the 25th. And that they would bring it to the floor of the Senate.

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LBJ Well they voted 3 to 7 today against it. Now what's important is that we check those votes pretty carefully somebody -- I don't want to be in a position personally doing it, or having some underling on my staff do it, I'd rather somebody in your office check it.

LO Right.

LBJ I did tell Mansfield that I thought it would be terrible to Kennedy's memory and I a hell of a way to launch a new administration.

LO Right, I agree.

LBJ And so I want somebody to give it a little attention and let me know tonight or in the morning if there is anything that I need to know about it if it's not well taken care of.

LO Very good.

LBJ And then you let me know any suggestions you have because we're in this thing -- up to our ears.

LO Right, Mr. President.

LBJ Thank you, Larry.

LO Thank you.

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